CLAIMS

1. A method for routing a message which includes a receiver's subscriber identifier from a message center, the method comprising

sending the message to be routed to a gateway,

performing an interrogation to subscriber registers through a signaling network to identify a network of a subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier included in the message received by the gateway, and

sending the message from the gateway further to a message center of the identified network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to sending the message to be routed from the message center to the gateway, the method comprises

checking from a subscriber register corresponding to the message center whether or not the particular subscriber register is the subscriber register of the subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier, and

sending the message to be routed to the gateway if the checking indicates that the subscriber register corresponding to the message center is not the subscriber register of the subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier.

3. A telecommunication system comprising:

message centers which provide subscribers with message services,

subscriber registers to maintain subscriber information, and

a signaling network connected to the subscriber registers,

a signaling gateway which, in response to a received subscriber identifier, performs an interrogation to the subscriber registers through the signaling network to identify a network of a subscriber corresponding to said subscriber identifier, and

a gateway which relays messages between the message centers and which, to route the message to a correct message center, performs an interrogation to the signaling gateway in response to receiving a message including a receiver's subscriber identifier to identify the network of the subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier, and sends the message to a message center of the identified network.

4. The telecommunication system of claim 3, wherein at least one of the message centers is configured to

check from a corresponding subscriber register whether or not the particular subscriber register is the subscriber register of a subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier included in the message to be sent, and

send the message to the gateway to be relayed further if the checking indicates that the particular corresponding subscriber register is not the subscriber register of the subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier.

5. The telecommunication system of claim 3, wherein the messages are multimedia messages, the message centers are multimedia message centers, and the gateway is a multimedia message gateway.

6. A telecommunication system gateway which relays messages between message centers, and which gateway is configured to

receive a message which includes a subscriber identifier from a message center,

route the received message to a correct message center by performing an interrogation to a signaling gateway to identify a network of a subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier, and

send the message to a message center of the identified network.

7. The gateway of claim 6, wherein

the gateway comprises a memory wherein operators of the message centers may, through a user interface, operator-specifically define contract rules concerning relaying of messages between the message centers of different operators, and

the gateway is configured to check from the memory whether or not it is allowed to send a message received from the center of a particular operator to a message center of another particular operator, and send the message to the message center of the second operator only if the contract rules stored in the memory indicate that both the first and the second operator have allowed messages to be relayed between the message centers of the first and the second operator.